



THU

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 5291**
Mie TAKAHASHI et al. : Docket No. 2001-1464A
Serial No. 09/937,730 : Group Art Unit 1641
Filed January 8, 2002 : Examiner Gary W. Counts
CHROMATOGRAPHY MEDIUM : Mail Stop Amendment
AND ITS MANUFACTURING METHOD

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of September 9, 2005, Applicants submit the following remarks in support of the patentability of the presently claimed invention over the disclosure of the references relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting the claims. Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of these remarks.

Thus, the rejection of claims 5, 12, 27, 31, 41, 45, 53 and 60 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chu in view of Nanbu et al. or Uenoyama et al. is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner's Position

It is the position of the Examiner that Chu discloses a device comprising a porous reaction membrane and at least one receptor, a method of making the device, and applying a surfactant (surface active agent) to the reaction membrane and allowing it to dry. The Examiner further states that Chu teaches the surfactant can be polyoxyethylene (23), polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate or polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate. The Examiner admits that Chu fails to teach a surface active agent comprising sugar in a hydrophilic part of the surface active agent.